

Sunday: **2024-12-08 2nd Sunday of Advent**
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Dave & Carla Breese*)
 4:00 PM Christmas Caroling. Meet at the church N. parking lot.
 6:00 PM Manse Party

Tuesday: **2024-12-10**
 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study meets at the Trinity Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets
 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study meets downstairs at Salem.

Thursday: **2024-12-12**
 Noon The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets on Thursdays at noon in Van Wert; the meeting place for December is the Brumback Library basement.

Sunday: **2024-12-15 23rd Sunday of Advent/Christmas Program**
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Kevin & Kristen Price*)

Announcements: Salem is collecting **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the December collection will be collecting toilet paper.

We will not be using the large white envelopes for church giving in 2025. If you want to put your money in an envelope, please use the small white envelopes found in the little brown boxes in the two vestibules.

Birthday Card shower for Marilyn Stockton. She turns 95 on December 13th. Her mailing address is Lochhaven, Apt 220, 1640 Allentown Road, Lima, OH 45805

Upcoming Birthdays

8 th Paige Thatcher (McClure)	9 th Jason Lloyd	10 th Danielle Lloyd
13 th Marilyn Stockton	17 th John Finn	17 th Jeremy Morris

Upcoming Anniversaries

16 th Kent & Heather McClure	28 th Doug & Marilyn Strickler
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Salem Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@salemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

LaDonna Allenbaugh (shoulder & elbow surgery)
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Dave Burnett (heart issues)
Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident)
Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing)
Marjorie Eutsler
Millie Fletcher
Ellen Friesner
Cecil Foust (heart surgery)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Bob & Jane Harter
Sheryl Hefner (cancer)
Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher
David Kroeger (pancreatic cancer)
Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor for heart & foot issues)
Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan's daughter)
David Morris (Zeb)
Tim Morris
Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh's step-dad
Bev Place (cancer)
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)
Paul Price
Denise Pugh
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)
Bianca Richards (Evelyn Schwartz)
Marilyn Stockton (heart issues)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

Serving Our Country:

Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines)
Corbin Evans (U.S. Marine Corps)
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)
Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)
Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

Condolences for Becky Martz (mother of Elijah).

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Rev. Thomas Emery
“The Creator and Redeemer” Malachi 3:1-4
Salem Presbyterian Church
December 8, 2018

Israel heard from the Prophet Malachi that God was purifying Israel by their suffering afflictions. So, too, God may be refining us by the fires of His daily judgments. But His aim is always that of love -- to rid us of sin. Our Lord, by His Spirit at work in our lives and the world, is taking away the sin that will make us unable to endure the coming of the Day of the Lord. By His action as the Refiner of our lives, God in Christ can keep us from falling and present us without blemish before the presence of His glory with rejoicing (Jude 24). In our helplessness, we need someone to prepare us, to remind us, and to point us in the right direction out of the wilderness.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – We are lost on our own and self-destructive.

POINT TWO – We just obey, and God honors our obedience by blessing us with gifts

POINT THREE – While on earth, don’t waste your time.

THIS WEEK’S KEY PASSAGE

² “But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes (Malachi 3:2 NLT).

ACTION POINT

People need to be aware that they are undeserving sinners, but they could also be bound to a forgiving God who wants to give them hope. We are not capable of changing ourselves. Because we are sinners, our attempts at self-reform will always come up short of what God requires of us in the Ten Commandments of the Covenant. However, as the Covenant helps us to recognize our inadequacy, the Covenant also allows us to realize that God made the Covenant with the intent of helping us. The Covenant declares that we should have been entirely dependent upon God in the first place. That is what John the Baptist was preaching about when he taught a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins by the Lamb of God. Why not turn to the Jesus who can give us hope and a future by making us right with God?

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